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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF ISLAND TERRITORIES, HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM, AT ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, FROM 17 TO 19 JUNE 1992

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex) "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism" in which, inter alia, it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to:

> "organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts".

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 calling for coordinated assistance of the specialized agencies to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that:

> "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

3. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/1107), the primary objective of the Seminar was mainly to address the economic and social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region and to identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and development and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the viable and sustainable development of the Territories concerned.

4. The topics considered by the Seminar assisted the Special Committee in focusing its attention on the specific concerns of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. In that connection, the Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It also secured the participation of special

guests, particularly personalities who are actively involved in the economic, social and political development of the region, and of organizations and institutions that focus on such development; of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories; and of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, which have a special role to play in assisting the Special Committee in its future consideration of the remaining Territories.

5. The contributions of all participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will assist the Special Committee in its future consideration of the remaining Territories.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

6. The Seminar was held at St. George's, Grenada, from 17 to 19 June 1992.

7. The Seminar held six meetings, in which representatives of United Nations bodies, Non-Self-Governing Territories, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as eminent persons invited as special guests, took part (for further details, see annex II to the present report).

8. The Seminar was conducted by Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following other members of the Special Committee: Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Fiji, Mali, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia.

9. At the 1st meeting, on 17 June 1992, the following representatives were appointed as officers of the Seminar: Mr. Alexander Slabý (Czechoslovakia), and Mr. Amor Ardhaoui (Tunisia) as Vice-Chairmen, Mrs. Margaret A. King-Rousseau (Trinidad and Tobago) as Rapporteur, and Mr. Charles S. Flemming (Saint Lucia) as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee was open-ended.

10. With reference to General Assembly resolution 46/181, the Seminar considered the following themes, inter alia:

(a) The problems of small, structurally open economies: heavy dependence on imports, a limited number of commodities and highly restricted internal markets;

(b) Food production: development of small-scale agricultural activities and of fisheries;

(c) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors and on the environment;

(d) Development of offshore financial centres in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region: positive and negative aspects;

(e) Addressing the issue of drug trafficking and money laundering;

(f) Development of financial management expertise and of skills necessary to negotiate and manage foreign investments; and gaining access to adequate information systems;

(g) Development of industries and of indigenous technological capacities; and manufacturing for export;

(h) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(i) Implications for the island Territories of environmental issues such as global warming and its consequences, including rising sea-levels;

(j) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief; financing of public works projects; and training for disaster prevention;

(k) International and regional cooperation in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters: provision of assistance and coordination of relief preparedness and prevention;

(l) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region;

(m) The role of the specialized agencies, international organizations and regional organizations in the economic and social development of the Territories;

(n) Access of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas in which technical and other assistance could be provided;

(o) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening both by the Territories concerned and international agencies: preservation and protection of marine resources from over-exploitation; sea and air transport; disaster preparedness and relief; higher education; research and development; and regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise.

II. CONDUCT OF THE SEMINAR

A. Proceedings of the meetings

11. The Seminar was opened on 17 June by Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar. Mr. Lohia introduced Senator the Honourable Tillman Thomas, Minister in the Ministry of Finance of Grenada.

12. Mr. Thomas delivered an address at the opening of the Seminar. That statement is reproduced in extenso in annex I to the present report.

13. At its final meeting, on 19 June 1992, the Seminar adopted by acclamation a final document entitled "Summary of discussions and recommendations". For further details, see chapter III of the present report. At the same meeting, a resolution of appreciation to the Government and people of Grenada was read out (see annex III to the present report).

14. In his statement following the address of the Minister, Mr. Lohia referred to the view that the process of decolonization had entered a new and complex phase and there was a need for innovative approaches to challenges facing the remaining dependent Territories. He recalled that during the two Seminars of the Special Committee held in 1990, some ministers of dependent Territories had called for the refocusing of the energies of the Special Committee, and had asked the Committee to urge the administering Powers to create conditions that could ensure the economic and social development of the Territories.

15. As pointed out by the Chairman, one such minister, at the Seminar held in Barbados in 1990, had called upon the Committee to respect the wishes of the majority of the people and to find a way to deal with the small islands that did not wish to opt for independence, but which needed technical and educational assistance. Yet another minister had stated that the Non-Self-Governing Territory which he represented should be developed and prepared for independence in such a way that it "did not become independent only to become the client of another Power".

16. The Chairman advised that, in keeping with the concerns expressed at the Seminar held in Barbados in 1990, the Special Committee had concluded that assistance by the international community to promote the economic and social progress of the dependent Territories should be intensified. The Committee, through such activities as the Seminar, had a leading role to play in mobilizing resources for such development assistance.

17. He noted that while a number of Territories in the Caribbean region had made remarkable progress towards self-reliance and enjoyed a high standard of living, others continued to suffer handicaps arising from such factors as their size, remoteness, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, weak indigenous technological capacities and a lack of skilled personnel.

18. In order to alleviate their situation, the Chairman stated that the international community, along with the administering Powers, should continue to be involved in the development effort. The specialized agencies of the United Nations system bore a special responsibility in that regard. Many such agencies were already involved in projects in the dependent Territories. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were all cited among the United Nations bodies and agencies involved in assistance projects in the Caribbean Territories.

19. The Chairman noted with satisfaction the increased emphasis placed by the General Assembly on the responsibilities of the United Nations specialized agencies in the development process of those Territories. In that regard, he pointed out that in its resolution 46/70, the General Assembly not only reiterated the importance that the it attached to the contribution by the specialized agencies and the international institutions to the economic and social development of Non-Self-Governing Territories, but it also invited those agencies and institutions to apprise the Assembly regularly of their development programmes in those Territories.

B. Summary of statements by participants from Non-Self-Governing Territories

(Representatives of Governments, legislative councils and parliaments and various non-governmental organizations)

20. The ensuing section gives a summary of statements by representatives of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

Anguilla

21. Mrs. Phyllis Fleming-Banks, representative of the National Council of Women of Anguilla, said that the Seminar was being held at the same time that Anguilla was celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its revolution, or Anguilla's bid for self-determination.

22. Anguilla's rebellion from associated statehood with Saint Kitts-Nevis in 1967 had not been an impulsive act; it had been the combination of more than a century of protests and objections to annexation to Saint Kitts.

23. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, she said, had always been unconcerned about the needs of Anguillans. Anguilla was ignored because it was not an economically viable colony. In fact, Great Britain had attempted to relocate Anguillans in the nineteenth century rather than provide assistance during periods of famine and drought. Anguillans had defied the British then and were prepared to defy the forced union again in 1967.

24. Anguilla's quest for self-determination was a unifying force. Many were prepared to lay down their lives, and Anguilla had pleaded its case before the United Nations for two years. The United Nations, although sympathetic, had no answers at that time, even after Anguilla declared itself a republic and begged for United Nations protection.

25. A quarter of a century later, Anguilla's struggle for self-determination had taken it back into colonialism and dependent capitalist development. She said that "we are now experiencing the trappings of direct colonialism".

26. She said that the administering Power claimed that it took very seriously its obligations for social and economic development of the island. Great Britain had told the Committee that Anguilla was an internally self-governing Territory and that Her Majesty's Government retained responsibilities only in respect of law, order, defence and international relations, including offshore finance. The Constitution, Great Britain said, had advanced as far as it reasonably could and any further changes must include independence. Her Majesty's Government had made it absolutely clear that it would help the people of Anguilla to become independent when and if that was their constitutionally expressed wish.

27. From that statement, Anguillans were to assume that Great Britain was preparing them to assume eventually overall responsibility for their country. Yet the United Kingdom had decided since 1986 not to take part in the work of the Special Committee for reasons it would not divulge to the Territories. How, she asked, could the persistent refusal to participate in the work of the Special Committee prepare Anguillans for self-government; she wondered how Anguillans were supposed to be prepared for independence if key positions were increasingly being turned over to expatriate British officials.

28. Following rapid economic and social growth, Anguilla was now ready for political education, Mrs. Fleming-Banks said. In 1984, Anguillans had told the Committee they did not want independence unless there was some deliberate effort to expose them to the aims of the Committee, so that they could make informed choices regarding self-determination. The Decade would end with Anguillans still being fearful about the isolation of independence and they would settle for British colonialism and increasing alienation of their country until another eruption took place.

29. For the goals of the Special Committee to have some meaning or relevance to the people in a Territory like Anguilla, the Committee must find a way to develop a relationship and communicate with the people. She called for the removal of the structural impediments to full participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the technical work of the United Nations and other international bodies.

30. On the role of women, she appreciated the Committee's efforts to involve women in its work. She said that "when you touch the women, you strike the rock, you unleash a boulder, with which all ignorance and fears can be crushed".

Bermuda

31. Mr. Nelson B. A. Bascome, Jr., Member of Parliament of Bermuda, said that he represented the Progressive Labour Party, the official Opposition and the "Government-in-waiting".

32. He said that "today we are witnessing a more subtle approach of colonialism ... the destruction of segments of our communities is now indirect, so that victims can be led to participate in, and then blamed for, their own destruction".

33. Illegal drugs continued to frustrate and depress the situation even more, he continued. The illusion of many that drugs were a vehicle to provide a better lifestyle was also destroying certain communities.

34. Mr. Bascome stated that human resources development and education should be a priority. The continued existence of institutions created by colonialism should be investigated. It would give the Committee an understanding as to why several countries still remained Non-Self-Governing Territories.

35. Also of interest to Bermuda would be the position of the United Kingdom after Hong Kong was returned in 1997. Bermuda would then become the largest colony in terms of population. Great Britain currently seemed concerned with establishing itself as a major institution in the European financial community, and did not have as a priority the needs of its colonies.

36. Another concern was that administering Powers could still dictate terms to former colonies, he said. For example, with the independence of Namibia, South Africa maintained control of a vital port.

37. Finally, Mr. Bascome said that a Bermuda Progressive Labour Party Government would actively educate the population of Bermuda on the ramifications and responsibilities of national independence, with a view to preparing for that eventuality, to be decided by the electorate at a future general election. He said that "it is independence for which we strive, but interdependence on which we survive".

38. Mr. Walton Brown, Chairman of the Committee for the Independence of Bermuda, made a presentation on the development of indigenous human resources in Bermuda. He said that Bermuda had enjoyed a comparatively high level of social and economic development and stability over the past 25 years, the reasons for which were unrelated to Bermuda's umbilical link to the administering Power. Great Britain provided no financial assistance to Bermuda, since it needed none. The island had been a self-governing colony since 1684, and had introduced universal suffrage and cabinet-style government in the 1960s. He said that "it is thus a vulgar Orwellian twist to cite Bermuda as a British dependent Territory".

39. Despite the many positive aspects of Bermuda today there were a number of both symbolic and practical reasons why Bermuda must move forward constitutionally and take its place among sovereign States.

40. Like many small Territories, Bermuda did not have readily available locally all the skills required to fill the many positions generated by the economy. Bermuda's expatriate workforce approximated some 23 per cent of the total workforce, and their occupations ranged from chief executive officers of

international companies to nannies, waiters and office cleaners. More than half of the White population was not born in the island. Foreign-born Blacks accounted for about 10 per cent of the Black population.

41. One of the economic consequences of the existing immigration policy was that there was a widespread perception among Bermudians that insufficient opportunities were made available for them in key administrative and managerial posts that were held by foreign workers. Anxiety was heightened when long-term contract workers were granted "Bermuda Status" and were thus able to continue to hold their positions.

42. Many Bermudians believed that foreign workers, especially White executives, cared less about promoting Bermudians in key positions than they did about holding onto their own and, as a consequence, the hope that companies would take on a Bermudian understudy was blind faith. At the same time a "colonial mentality" prevailed which validated contributions of outsiders and denigrated the product of local effort. That psychology of dependence was a logical outgrowth of the colonial condition from which Bermuda had yet to free itself.

43. Mr. Brown suggested that an annual limit on the number of work permits granted in any job category could provide an incentive to companies to search out local resources and where necessary, provide relevant and adequate training. He also suggested that greater legal protection was needed for immigrant workers in low paying, unskilled jobs and recommended the establishment of a formal policy to ensure that the immigrant population better reflected the racial characteristics of the local population.

44. In terms of developing human resources skills in Bermuda, he said that problems arose when job opportunities for which students had trained locally and overseas did not materialize. In general, though, there was a real and genuine commitment to higher economic research on the island. Both the Government and the private sector should be encouraged to devote greater resources to research and development.

45. Developing a regional pool of expertise, he continued, was critical. The sharing with other countries of persons with different areas of knowledge and expertise would help in an appreciation of the talent already present in the region and allow the possibility of addressing many issues from within. Regional cooperation at that level could assist in a closer political union of the Caribbean and in so doing strengthen the unit. Some consideration should be given to the physical infrastructure needed to establish a regional pool of experts.

British Virgin Islands

46. Mr. Ralph T. O'Neal, Deputy Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands, stated that he was heartened to read in a communication from the United Kingdom Government to the Special Committee that Her Majesty's Government took very seriously its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations towards

the remaining dependent Territories and that its aid commitment to them would continue. That was especially heartening because the British Virgin Islands had been told in no uncertain terms that after 1993 the United Kingdom Government intended to cut off capital aid.

47. His Government held the United Kingdom Government responsible for the social and economic development of the Territory, a responsibility that Her Majesty's Government had been fulfilling to some degree.

48. Mr. O'Neal said that a serious problem which existed was the transshipment of illegal drugs through the British Virgin Islands owing to its proximity to the United States, where it seemed "there was an appetite for drugs like the grave had for the dead". All the manpower and money of the United States had not been able to stem the flow of drugs to that country. The fight against drug trafficking had caused a serious drain on the resources of the British Virgin Islands, which could have been used for development projects.

49. The United Kingdom did provide financial and technical assistance in the fight against illegal drugs, he acknowledged. However, there were difficulties in obtaining funds for other projects. For example, finances for a community college that were to have come from the British Government were being held up pending a study to determine whether the college was indeed a "reasonable development need".

50. He urged the Committee to continue applying pressure on the administering Powers to assist in the social and economic development projects in their dependent Territories. Although the United Kingdom had assisted to some degree in the development plans of the British Virgin Islands, much more could still be done since the Territory was far behind.

Montserrat

51. Ms. Ruby Wade-Bramble, Independent Member of the Legislative Council of Montserrat, expressed the hope that influential nations with interest in the Caribbean region would be able to persuade Great Britain to resume its participation in the work of the Special Committee. She stated that it was a pity that the United Nations had no effective mechanism for monitoring developments in dependent Territories. For instance, Montserrat had been forced to change its Passports and Immigration Ordinance to bring it in line with Great Britain's New Nationality Act, and the status of the people had been downgraded from "Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies" to "British Dependent Territories Citizen".

52. She further stated that, given the present state of the world, one needed to be realistic. A national flag, a national anthem and a constitutional instrument which indicated that the administering Power had agreed at last to cede control to the people of a Territory could create only short-lived emotional upliftment if those developments were not linked to an economic development programme.

53. Mrs. Adelina Tuitt, Public Relations Officer of the Government of Montserrat, said that Montserrat was a very small country. Bearing in mind its size and position, she believed that leaning towards closer association with its Caribbean partners, and being a part of all regional and international organizations such as the Organization of American States, UNESCO, FAO and possibly the United Nations would be essential ingredients towards the preparation for independence.

54. The economy of Montserrat had been based on tourism and to a large extent the construction industry. Owing to the low profitability of tourism, however, the economy needed to be diversified.

55. Also, the need to become self-sufficient was foremost in the minds of the people of Montserrat since for any nation to progress the people must be able to feed themselves. Self-sufficiency was a prerequisite towards achieving any future status, be it statehood in association with the United Kingdom, or independence.

56. Montserrat welcomed any assistance which the Special Committee could give to ensure economic growth.

Turks and Caicos Islands

57. Mr. Robert Hall, Minister for Health, Education, Welfare and Social Services of the Turks and Caicos Islands, commenting on the issue of independence, said that the manifesto of the ruling party stated that the Constitution must be amended to reflect the wishes of the people and that their elected representatives should be allowed to govern on their behalf. He stated categorically, however, that it was not their intention to seek independence but rather a greater degree of self-government. He said that "we believe in progress through partnership".

58. He did not think that Her Majesty's Government or anyone else should dictate the course that the Turks and Caicos Islands should take. However, he did hold the United Kingdom Government to its commitment under the Charter of the United Nations to ensure the social and economic development of the remaining Territories under its jurisdiction.

59. Mr. Hall stated that, in the past, he had been extremely critical of the attitude of the United Kingdom Government towards the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the apparent neglect of the Territory. He said that "over the years I have felt the piercing of their darts". That had resulted, actually, in a greater degree of understanding, and even mutual respect. He said that "it would appear that the administering Power is now more willing to lend a sympathetic ear to the wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands".

60. He said that the $43 million aid package recently negotiated for the Turks and Caicos Islands was indicative of the desire of the administering Power to live up to its responsibilities. Regrettably, he said, there was no

change in the United Kingdom's position on full internal self-government for the Territory. The United Kingdom Government wished to link the granting of full self-government to a formal schedule for independence. That was a condition that the Territory was not willing to accept. The Turks and Caicos Islands would like to move to full internal self-government but did not wish to be tied to a timetable for independence after that.

61. On the role of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, Mr. Hall said that they could help to train and prepare the peoples of the dependent Territories for leadership positions, self-government and independence. Participation in the activities of the United Nations agencies was essential, and adequate financing should be provided to allow for participation. However, there was a feeling that more was said than done in the United Nations system. Nevertheless, he was hopeful that in the coming years more would be done than said.

62. The Minister concluded by stating that although the Turks and Caicos Islands was not in the international limelight, it needed the assistance of the international community to develop to its fullest potential in the social, economic and political fields.

63. Mr. Wendal Swann, Member of the Legislative Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands, said that the Special Committee had every reason to be proud of its successes, but stated that the Committee must reacquaint itself with its original purpose. In that respect, he welcomed the current ongoing reform process of the United Nations. He pointed out that, although the administering Power had ceased to cooperate with the Special Committee, its mandate remained unchanged. He emphasized that the Chairman had a duty to restore the credibility and effectiveness of the Special Committee at a time when the administering Powers were tightening their grip on the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He made the observation that the administering Power was not fulfilling its obligations under the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations. Mr. Swann also raised the issue of the control of the economies of Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreigners.

64. Mr. Swann criticized the Special Committee's approach and pointed out that it produced working papers that were often erroneous. He stated that the Committee needed to sharpen its focus on the peoples of the Territories. It also needed to improve its capacity to disseminate information to the Territories and to obtain relevant information from those dependencies. Ways must be found to circumvent the current problem of protocol.

65. Mr. Swann stated that the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be fully informed of the economic, social and other development assistance available from the United Nations and its agencies. He further suggested that the next seminar organized by the Special Committee should discuss issues submitted by the Territories themselves and be hosted by one of the dependencies.

United States Virgin Islands

66. Mr. Carlyle Corbin, representative for External Affairs of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, said that the direct linkage between the decolonization process and the participation of non-independent Territories in the United Nations system had been well recognized by the United Nations. The General Assembly had called for the use of special provisions in the terms of reference of specialized agencies and regional economic commissions to provide for the admission of Non-Self-Governing Territories as associate members or observers, and for the progressive increase in participation of those Territories in the work of the technical organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

67. The peoples of the Territories themselves had also endorsed their direct involvement in programmes and activities of the United Nations system at regional decolonization seminars. A number of specialized agencies associated with the United Nations had taken steps to increase the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories but others had not proceeded as quickly.

68. In the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had been most active in fostering the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as associated Territories in the work of the United Nations system. ECLAC, and its associated subregional body, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), had been studying the question of increased participation of non-independent countries in the United Nations system since 1985. CDCC had discovered that many United Nations institutions were not aware of their mandate to facilitate the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their work programmes. In order to intensify activity in that area, CDCC had created a Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to focus on the problems of access of those countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

69. Mr. Corbin said:

> "It continues to be of concern to some Non-Self-Governing Territories within the ECLAC system that the work programme of the Commission does not always allow for their participation, and resources are often used to include some but not all Commission members in certain Commission programmes".

70. Membership in the many United Nations technical organs was usually limited to States Members of the United Nations. Accordingly, associate membership was not available. Even when the General Assembly directed those organs to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories, most were slow to comply, if at all.

71. As an example, after the devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the General Assembly directed the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to assist the United States Virgin Islands in reconstruction efforts. However, the agency in question, the Office of the United Nations Disaster

Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), believed that it had no mandate to assist the Territory irrespective of the relevant resolutions.

72. Mr. Corbin suggested that the Special Committee should establish a procedure to ensure that in its resolutions it called upon the Secretary-General to inform United Nations bodies and agencies of their mandates regarding the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He believed that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of its resolutions at a subsequent session of the Assembly. He also recommended that representatives of elected governments of Non-Self-Governing Territories be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Special Committee and its subcommittee in an official observer capacity in order to present their views to the Committee. Participation in that capacity should also be encouraged in technical conferences of the Organization, as well as in the General Assembly.

73. He was of the opinion that many of the structural impediments to full participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the technical work of the United Nations would be alleviated if the Territories had official observer status in the General Assembly, in recognition of the increasing self-government enjoyed by many of those countries.

74. Ms. Judith L. Bourne, representative of the United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands, made a presentation on some aspects of the impact of immigration and emigration on the current activity with regard to self-determination in the United States Virgin Islands.

75. She said that for the United States Virgin Islands, which was planning an electoral poll on available status options in mid-1993, migration patterns were likely to affect the results of the poll appreciably. Insufficient exposure of the political representatives of the population to the norms of international law with regard to self-determination was another concern.

76. According to official United States census figures, the population of the United States Virgin Islands grew by 20 per cent between 1950 and 1960, by almost 95 per cent between 1960 and 1970, and by another 55 per cent between 1970 and 1980. Those substantial changes in the population were clearly not the result of a natural increase. The 1990 census showed that only about 45 per cent of the population was born in the Territory.

77. The requirements for voting in the electoral poll, or non-binding referendum, were United States citizenship, residence in the United States Virgin Islands for at least 90 days and registration.

78. Ms. Bourne stated that while there had been suggestions that a longer period of residence should be required for a poll that would define the direction of the self-determination process, such initiatives were speedily smothered by elected political leaders who cited domestic United States law concerning residence requirements for periodic local elections. Effectively that would give more weight to the 12.3 per cent of the population that was

born in the United States than to the 29.3 per cent born in other West Indian islands. Of the latter, only one quarter were United States citizens, although many had resided in the United States Virgin Islands for more than 25 years.

79. She said that "to date, the status of the United States Virgin Islands, and the basic structure of its Government, have always been determined by a force other than the people of the United States Virgin Islands".

80. The free immigration between the United States and the Territory forced young local graduates to compete with immigrants from the United States for openings in an environment in which business interests were dominated by persons who were themselves from the administering Power. That resulted in the emigration of those islanders to the United States in search of opportunity. Those economic emigrants also lost their eligibility to participate in self-determination decisions.

81. The United Nations must assist in educating the peoples of the United States Virgin Islands and other Territories about their right to participate in acts of self-determination and to negotiate with the administering Power on eligibility requirements, she said.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEMINAR

82. At its final meeting, on 19 June 1992, the participants in the Seminar adopted by acclamation the following summary of discussions and recommendations:

Summary of discussions and recommendations

1. The participants in the Seminar reaffirmed the importance of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and praised the United Nations and, in particular, the Special Committee for the role they had played in the decolonization process during the past 32 years. They continued to support the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the need for its implementation in the remaining colonial Territories.

2. They noted with appreciation the opening address by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance of Grenada, and supported his position that the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism could not be viewed in isolation from the emerging global trends and their impact on the conditions of life in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. Participants noted that economic development in many Non-Self-Governing Territories was hindered by factors such as their relatively small size, limited internal markets, lack of natural

resources and heavy dependence on imports. They recommended that in Territories whose economies were mainly based on one industry, serious attempts should be made at diversification. Sectors such as fishing and agriculture should be developed and educational awareness campaigns about the negative effects of too much reliance on imported food should be conducted.

4. Participants reaffirmed that the question of territorial size, geographical isolation and limited resources should not constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration. Where General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) had not been fully implemented, the international community should continue to bear responsibility for the Territories concerned until all powers were transferred to the peoples of the respective Territories without any conditions or reservations until the peoples concerned had had an opportunity to exercise freely their rights in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

5. Considering that the economic advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories would continue to be among the leading concerns of the peoples of those Territories, participants called for the elaboration of specific programmes to guide and assist the economic development of the Territories through greater self-reliance and reduction of their dependence on external sources.

6. Participants expressed the view that the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, should take the necessary measures to ensure sustained and balanced development of the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, most of them also considered that the administering Powers should not exercise excessive control over the economic and social activities of the Territories since such influence could constitute an obstacle to the self-determination of the Territories, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960.

7. Given the small size of their economies, many participants recognized that it was extremely difficult for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve economies of scale similar to that of larger countries. In that connection, some participants suggested that neighbouring countries and other States should initiate and facilitate special trading relationships with the Territories. Also, the participants urged that the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries be utilized as far as possible in the provision of technical assistance programmes to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

8. Participants noted that, given their attractive climate and environmental conditions, the tourism industry had become the main economic activity in many Non-Self-Governing Territories. While recognizing that tourism could be a major source of revenue for those Territories owing to their limited natural resources, participants

considered that in the development of that industry, account should be taken of the need to ensure that scarce land resources were not alienated from the people of the Territory and that the expansion of the tourist facilities should be carefully monitored to avoid cultural disruption and the marginalization of the local population.

9. Participants also noted that in order to promote diversification and the economic development in Non-Self-Governing Territories, tourist facilities located on their soil should primarily rely on the use of locally purchased products. Regarding the protection of the environment, participants suggested that national parks should be created in areas particularly vulnerable to environmental damage, and information programmes should be launched to educate the local population as well as tourists on the need to safeguard the environment.

10. Participants took note of the vulnerability of the Territories of the Caribbean region to illicit activities such as drug trafficking, money laundering, false invoicing and other forms of white-collar crime and, in that connection, called upon the administering Powers concerned and the international community to take all necessary measures in cooperation with the territorial Governments to combat the drug problem, in all its aspects, within the Territories concerned.

11. Participants emphasized the need to provide the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the necessary educational and technical skills to administer the countries once they became independent. However, some noted the problem of the "brain-drain" affecting a number of the Territories, when students, after having completed their qualifications abroad, tended to settle in the countries where they had pursued their studies rather than return home. It was also pointed out that Territories with relatively high standards of living attracted large numbers of immigrants with resultant effects on, among other matters, the ownership of economic interests. That combination of in-and-out migration patterns had seriously affected the demographic composition of some populations, which, in turn, could have a substantial impact on the expression of popular desires with respect to self-determination, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/56 of 2 December 1985.

12. With regard to environmental issues such as global warming, participants noted with alarm that rising sea levels could have potentially disastrous effects on some Non-Self-Governing Territories since even a relatively small ascent of the ocean could cause extensive damage to waterfront-based industries and public facilities and ultimately even threaten the Territory's existence. In that connection, participants called for the observation by all States of the decisions reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, concerning the need to preserve and protect the environment while permitting sustainable development to take place.

13. Participants noted the vulnerability of many Non-Self-Governing Territories to natural disasters and stressed the need for them to be included in the programmes and projects of the United Nations system, such as those envisaged under the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, and those designed to assist island developing countries. At the local level, participants called for improved preparedness, training and coordination among the institutions involved with disaster prevention and relief.

14. Participants emphasized the importance of international and regional cooperation on the prevention of natural disasters. They pointed out that early warning and adequate preparedness and training could substantially mitigate the devastating effects of most natural calamities, and noted that after disasters struck, prompt and adequate international assistance could further reduce the amount of human suffering and the number of casualties caused by such disasters.

15. Participants recognized that, in order to achieve sustainable development in island Territories, increased local food and energy production could help to build self-reliant economies. Sustainable utilization of natural resources, including marine resources, should be integrated into national development processes in order to reduce the dependence of Territories on food and energy imports.

16. Participants emphasized that agricultural goods should be produced not only for domestic consumption, but also for export. Non-Self-Governing Territories should also explore the possibility of using marine resources as a source of foreign-exchange earnings.

17. Bearing in mind that industrialization was an important factor in socio-economic development, that it shifted labour and other resources from low-productivity activities to high-productivity manufacturing and that it generated employment and technological change, participants called upon the Non-Self-Governing Territories to identify programmes that would contribute to the development of private enterprise and promote domestic and foreign investment.

18. It was considered that programmes could include small-scale industrial enterprises, including those within the informal sector, whose activities were based on the use of local raw materials.

19. Participants expressed the need to develop industrial linkages with rural economies, thereby improving income distribution and reducing rural-urban migration. They called upon regional organizations and institutions to promote agro-allied industries that would yield products that could be marketed both domestically and region-wide.

20. In order to develop regional and subregional markets for the trade of manufactured goods, supply and demand surveys should be taken to determine export opportunities on regional and subregional markets.

21. Regional organizations should assist the Territories to increase their access to markets and should institute measures to enable them to benefit fully from existing preferential trade arrangements.

22. International organizations should assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in upgrading their indigenous technological infrastructures and in promoting successful local technologies.

23. Participants called upon all administering Powers to ensure that Non-Self-Governing Territories benefited fully from the exploitation of resources within their exclusive economic zones.

24. Participants recalled the initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to develop a regional programme of cooperation in the management of regional economic exclusive zones, which aimed, inter alia, at protecting marine resources from illegal exploitation, delimiting maritime boundaries and reviewing existing fisheries legislation. They expressed the hope that those Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region that had observer status in CARICOM would benefit from the programme and that other Territories would be encouraged to participate in the programme.

25. Bearing in mind that all exclusive economic zones did not have the same potential in terms of living, mineral and energy resources, and that there were limited opportunities for developing industrial fisheries in some areas, participants called for greater focus by the Territories on shore-based benefits such as income from licence, harbour and transshipment fees.

26. Participants advocated that environmental protection and sustainable development guidelines, standards and criteria of Non-Self-Governing Territories should be developed in harmony with those being developed for States within their respective subregions.

27. They urged that small island Non-Self-Governing Territories be given assistance in the execution of environmentally sound, sustainable development plans taking into consideration their biophysical and socio-economic vulnerability, in order to prevent their pursuit of unsustainable industrial development paths.

28. Participants called for human resources development in Non-Self-Governing Territories to be supported and enhanced within the context of the special sustainable development needs of small island countries.

29. Participants expressed the view that self-government and development were partnership activities between peoples, governments and international organizations and urged the Special Committee to apply that philosophy in its social and economic work. Participants urged the Special Committee to increase the range of its consultations, with particular attention to grass-roots development and women's organizations.

30. They called for greater membership and participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in subregional, regional and international organizations, and for their national sustainable development plans to be developed in harmony with a well-coordinated subregional approach.

31. Participants also urged the Special Committee to seek formal collaboration with the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on its proposed comprehensive study on the access of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations with the aim of identifying appropriate method for increased participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and with other regional organizations, including the Organization of American States, that had the issue of decolonization on their agendas.

32. Participants proposed that provision be made for representatives of elected governments of Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate in the meetings of the Special Committee and its subcommittee in an official observer capacity, and suggested that the Special Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the provision of financial assistance to facilitate the participation of representatives of the territorial Governments or other appropriate authorities in the work of the United Nations during consideration of their respective Territories in the field of decolonization.

33. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should be encouraged to support the inclusion of provisions in their resolutions to permit Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate in technical meetings in an observer capacity.

34. Participants proposed that the Special Committee should seek to identify and work to remove all obstacles to the full participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of all United Nations bodies.

35. The United Nations should consider the establishment of a mechanism to represent the interests, and articulate the needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, taking into account the geographic location of the majority of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

36. Participants called upon the Special Committee to intensify its dissemination of information on decolonization directly to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to raising the awareness among the peoples of the applicability of international principles to the self-determination process. They recommended that the Territories themselves should also provide to the Committee on a regular basis up-to-date information on the situation in the Territories and on the concerns of their peoples.

Annex I

STATEMENT BY SENATOR THE HONOURABLE TILLMAN THOMAS, MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF GRENADA

I have the pleasurable honour to welcome you to Grenada for the first regional Seminar on decolonization being held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Nicholas Brathwaite, and the Government and people of Grenada, to say how happy we are that you have accepted our offer to host this Seminar in Grenada, and to assure you that we will do all that is necessary to ensure that you have a very memorable stay with us.

This Seminar convenes at a time when the phenomenon of globalization and the imperatives of structural adjustment conspire to force small States, in particular, to rethink their development strategies in an attempt to ensure the economic and political survival of these micro-States. We believe that the United Nations specialized agencies are well placed to assist these Territories in devising appropriate economic and social policies that are conducive to growth and stability.

The orientation of this Seminar envisages consideration of the special development needs of island Territories. This is most opportune and should provide the basis for very stimulating discussions, particularly as you seek to relate the current forces of globalization to the objective of the eradication of colonialism.

Indeed, the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism cannot be viewed in isolation of the emerging global trends and their impact on the conditions of life in the island developing Territories. It will be readily conceded that we are at a stage where the ability to act independently clearly transcends national jurisdiction and, in the case of micro-States, raises concerns as to whether or not a new and more structured form of colonialism is not imminent. How can we in the island developing countries mistake the inexorable advent of the new world order replete with unprecedented economic and trade arrangements as evidenced by the North American Free Trade Area and the Single European Market? Many doubt whether small States would be able to compete or survive in that uncertain environment.

But this reality cannot by itself be the determinant of whether or not small island States should fight to preserve their independence or fight to win independence, as the case may be. These are issues for national constituencies to decide within democratic structures.

Permit me to illustrate my point by highlighting the example of my own country, Grenada, which was the first among the least developed countries of the Caribbean to proceed to independence in 1974. The fact that we have

experienced severe constitutional crises and that our economy is not as buoyant as those of some of our neighbours which gained independence much later cannot lead to a conclusion that we should not have chosen independence or, indeed, that we should surrender our independence.

It is in this context that the urgent need for political unification of the Caribbean, to provide the environment for deeper economic integration, must be appreciated. It must be seen not simply as a response to globalization, but also as a clear recognition that the perennial problems of small States can benefit from the pooling of sovereignties and resources to enhance the conditions of life in these Territories. This is the rationale for the proposed unification of the Windward Islands and the conceptual basis of Prime Minister Manning's initiative.

In the next few years, the international tolerance of micro-States will be severely tested. Consequently, the decolonization process in the non-independent Territories may, conceivably, produce innovative constitutional forms as the peoples of these Territories consider and decide on their future political status while, at the same time, identifying viable trade, commercial and technological niches.

The challenges are enormous and time might not be sympathetic towards us. Island territories must be prepared to move forward in their own interest. Resources must be allocated for the modernization of our education systems and human resources development must be high on the list of development priorities. But while we are so engaged, the goals of social equity and justice, freedom and democracy, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms must not be compromised.

I wish you a very successful Seminar.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

A. PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Special Committee	H.E. Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations

Members of the Special Committee

Bulgaria	Mr. Deyan M. Mihov First Secretary, Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Cuba	Sra. Patria San Roman Ministry of Foreign Affairs Havana
Czechoslovakia	Mr. Alexander Slabý Counsellor, Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Fiji	Mr. Isikia Rabici Savua Counsellor Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Mali	M. Cheick Sidi Ahmed Tidiane Diarra First Counsellor Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Trinidad and Tobago	Mrs. Margaret A. King-Rousseau First Secretary Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Tunisia	H.E. M. Amor Ardhaoui Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations

B. OBSERVERS

Argentina	Sra. María Fernanda Cañas First Secretary Permanent Mission to the United Nations

C. REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Bermuda	Mr. Nelson B. A. Bascome, Jr. Member of Parliament
British Virgin Islands	The Honourable Ralph T. O'Neal Deputy Chief Minister
Montserrat	Mrs. Ruby Wade-Bramble Member of the Legislative Council
	Mrs. Adelina Tuitt Public Relations Officer Office of the Chief Minister
Turks and Caicos Islands	The Honourable Robert Hall Minister for Health, Education, Welfare and Social Services
	Mr. Wendal Swann Member of the Legislative Council
United States Virgin Islands	Mr. Carlyle Corbin Special Representative for External Affairs Office of the Governor

D. UNITED NATIONS BODIES

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Mr. Donatus St. Aimee Economic Affairs Officer

E. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of American States	Mr. Francis McBarnette Director St. George's, Grenada

F. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation	Mr. Patrick Doughty Deputy Director Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
United Nations Development Programme	Ms. Kristiane Golze Assistant Resident Representative Bridgetown, Barbados

G. SPECIAL GUESTS

Mr. John William Ashe	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda
Mr. Valentin Berezovsky	Member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
H.E. Mr. Charles S. Flemming	Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations
H.E. Mr. Paul-Marc Henry	Ambassador of France, Former Deputy Administrator of UNDP
Sir Fred Phillips	Former Administrator and Governor of Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Anguilla
H.E. Mr. Eugene Pursoo	Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations
Mr. Naresh C. Singh	Executive Director, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
Mr. Anthony Thorndike	Chairman, Department of International Affairs and Politics, Staffordshire Polytechnic United Kingdom
Mrs. Cordell Wilson	Chairperson, Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
Ms. Donna Winslow	Professor of Anthropology University of Montreal Canada

H. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Caribbean Centre for Development Administration	Ms. Charmaine Napoleon
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency	Mr. Jerry Collymore
Caribbean Meteorological Institute	Mr. Colin A. Depradine
Caribbean People's Development Agency	Ms. Dessima Williams Ms. Judy Williams

Caribbean Tourism Organization	Mrs. Corine Lorde
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank	Mr. Wendell Samuel
Institute of Social Economic Research	Mr. Patrick Emmanuel

I. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Agency for Rural Transformation, Grenada	Mr. Lennox B. Campbell
Committee for the Independence of Bermuda	Mr. C. Walton Brown
Grenada Hotel Association	Mr. Augustus Cruickshank
National Council of Women, Anguilla	Mrs. Phyllis Fleming-Banks
United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands	Mrs. Judith L. Bourne

J. HOST GOVERNMENT

Senator the Honourable Tillman Thomas	Minister in the Ministry of Finance
The Honourable Denis Noel	Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs

Annex III

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GRENADA

The Regional Seminar to Review the Special Development Needs of Island Territories, held within the Context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having met from 17 to 19 June 1992 at St. George's for the purpose of reviewing the special development needs of island Territories within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard important addresses by Senator the Honourable Tillman Thomas, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, and the Honourable Denis Noel, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Grenada for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its Seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the Seminar and in particular for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants and observers throughout their stay in Grenada.

6th meeting at St. George's
19 June 1992